

"Johnny dood boy," declared baby, nodding her little head.

"Yes, Johnny is a good boy now, and he is going to keep on being our good boy, I am sure," said mamma kissing him.

Johnny hurried outdoors again without saying anything, and when he came back, his eyes looked as if they had been crying. After that mamma tried baby's way a good deal oftener, and it worked far better than the old way had done.—*Christian Work.*

#### THINK.

One who honestly and carefully thinks of life and its duties is rarely one who walks in evil ways. Conscience is the "voice of God speaking in the heart."

"Promise me one thing," said a dying father to his son. "It is my dying request, will you grant it?"

The son, sobbing, gave his assent.

"I want you, for six months after my death, to go quietly and alone to my room for half an hour every day and think."

"On what subject?" inquired the boy.

"That," replied the father, "I leave altogether with yourself; only think!"

He had been a disobedient son, but he felt he would try to make some amends by keeping his promise, and after his father died he did try. At first his thoughts wandered to all sorts of subjects, till at length conscience began to work, and he was awakened to a sense of his wickedness and evil doings, and he set himself to amend his life and ways.—*Kind Works.*

#### POLITENESS.

"Oh, he's just as polite," said little Mabel. "He picks up things and runs for things, and says, 'Excuse me.'"

"Who?" I asked.

"That Carver boy," she said, pointing to handsomely dressed little fellow across the room.

"That boy?" I cried. "Why, I'm visiting at his house, and he bangs the doors, and whistles while his mother is talking, and says, 'Don't bother me,' when she asked him to shut the window. Are you sure it is that boy?"

"Yes," said Mabel mournfully; "though folks do say his manners are all put on away from home."—*Sunday-School Advocate.*

One of the things for which we ought to be most grateful is, that God will not give us what He knows is not best for us, even if we ask for it over and over again. And one prayer that we can always pray in all sincerity and faith is, that God will refuse to give us what is not good, when we do ask for it.—*Sunday School Times.*

## Church News.

### THE PENNSYLVANIA AND VIRGINIA CONFERENCES.

I always anticipate with pleasure the reunion of brethren and friends at the recurring annual conferences of the church.

As the above mentioned gatherings were timed with a view of enabling such as desired to attend both in succession, I took advantage of the arrangement.

As Brother Gnagey was present at both these conferences and will editorially note the leading events, I shall not enter into any details of the proceedings, suffice to say that the brethren of Morrison's Cove are of the true Pennsylvania dutch type, brim full of good nature and generous hospitality.

The most notable feature of the Pennsylvania conference was the increased interest in Home Mission, especially in the Washington church, which was substantially sustained.

Dr. McGregor's lecture, "The Mountain of Fire in American Civilization," was listened to by an overflowing audience with deep interest.

To those of keen theological perceptions the two sermons of the Lord's day sessions were intensely interesting, indeed they were dramatic and highly educational. Brother Gnagey showed with great beauty and definiteness the wonderful achievements of human culture and development under the benign influence of the gospel of Christ, and contended that the church was yet in her infancy in the destined triumphs of Christian faith and zeal under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Brother Haskins showed with equal definiteness that men did not have to depend upon the slow processes of human development to achieve the results that God contemplated in the plan of redemption, but that under absolute human surrender and trust, God through the Holy Ghost would quickly and triumphantly deliver him from the thralldom of evil and make him the temple of His own being. Brother Haskins illustrated his claim by the experience of the Israelites in their journey from Egypt to Canaan,

Both of these brethren presented their views with great sincerity and both had strong premises from which to draw their conclusions. Moreover both of those views represent large constituencies in the Brethren church and in evangelical churches generally, it is therefore right and proper that both should be presented at conventions or representative gatherings.

#### VIRGINIA-MARYLAND CONVENTION.

The Shenandoah valley has been a dream

in my mind ever since as a boy I read of the awful tragedies that were enacted there during the struggle between the North and South, hence it offered me more than ordinary pleasure to attend the annual convention of the Virginia-Maryland district held at New Market, Va., June 8 11. The valley appears to be as rich in beautiful scenery, and as productive in soil as any of the Pennsylvania valleys and very much larger. There is almost a straight line of turnpike and parallel railroad from Harper's Ferry to Staunton, a distance of 124 miles.

The people of the valley partake of the characteristics of their natural surroundings, being good natured and hospitable to an extreme degree. Though there were but four families of the Brethren church in New Market the convention was entertained as if the town was made up of members of our own church exclusively.

Brother Fogle, who assumed the responsibility for the entertainment of all who attended the convention, was eminently successful, as every one received his personal attention. It is an evidence of much love and zeal when such a small number undertakes so large a work. Dear Sister Good whose house was the headquarters of the convention, expressed her regrets when near the close, saying she would be lonesome after the brethren were gone. This is love. May the dear Lord bless and increase the New Market brethren and sisters and also the good people who entertained us and made us feel at home among them.

The first aggressive step toward foreign missions was taken at the Virginia conference of 1897. Historians can make a note of this, as it will no doubt prove the beginning of great work for God and suffering humanity. I think the Indiana conference raised some money for foreign work, but Virginia memorialized National Conference to organize a Board of foreign missions and to put an organizer in the field and also secured contributions amounting to two hundred dollars, very good for a starter.

Brother D. C. Moomaw was Moderator of the Convention and proved himself eminently able to occupy such a position. He was kind, yet firm, in his ruling and exercised a nice discretion as to the fitness of things.

J. C. CASSELL.

There is but one pursuit in life which it is in the power of all to follow, and of all to attain. It is subject to no disappointments, since he that perseveres makes every difficulty an advancement and every contest a victory; and this is the pursuit of virtue.